Licencing of Pathology laboratories

3437. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether authorities establishing pathological laboratories require to obtain permission/licence from the concerned Government agencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof with number of laboratories issued licence during the last three years;

(c) whether it is a fact that Indian laboratories are now extending their pathological services to overseas clients/hospitals by getting the samples tested in the laboratories here and electronically dispatching the reports;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

(e) what safeguard are taken in the disposal of the imported samples to ensure that they do not prove to be health hazards for India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Health being a State Subject it is for the State Governments to regulate the establishment of pathological laboratories.

(c) to (e) Some of the Indian Laboratories either directly or through their authorized importers or service providers have started extending their pathological services to the over-seas clients. For this purpose they are required to submit their applications to the Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry for seeking necessary permissions. For certain cases involving human biological material, opinion of Indian Council of Medical Research is sought by the Office of the DGFT, which is given by ICMR after due consideration of such cases by a Committee constituted for the purpose. Further, Pathological laboratories come under the preview of the Bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules 1998 and have to follow these rules for treatment and disposal of all kinds of Bio-medical wastes.

Stem Cell Research Promotion

3438. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state: